

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/641,082

Examiner

Thu Ha T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

DILSAVER ET AL.

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed December 01, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5,7-9,11-34,37 and 40-59.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 01/17/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jason D. Lohr (Reg. No. 48,163) on March 03, 2005.

3. The application has been amended as follow:

In the claims:

Claim 14, line 1, after the words "A network-based application", insert -- embedded in a computer readable medium--.

Claim 14, lines 3, 6, and 8 delete "suggestions", replace --new suggestion--.

Reasons for Allowance

4. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-34, 37 and 40-59 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention claimed a system and method for receiving and processing new suggestions how to improve/change a business practice for a company from a plurality of innovation zones and allowing peer to view and comment before a final decision is made regarding to the new suggestion is documented by the cited prior arts. However, the invention has some particular combination limitations that are different and distinct from prior arts. Among the differences between claimed invention and the prior art of record, the major difference is the combination of receiving and processing new

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suggestion including receiving a new suggestion from submitting party; categorizing said new suggestion based on key words into at least one central database; automatically sending acknowledge to said submitting party when the new suggestion is submitted by the submitting party; routing said new suggestion to one or more innovation zones; allowing peer viewing and commenting before the final decision is made regarding to the new suggestion; automatically searching and displaying for previously-submitted suggestion that are potentially related to the new suggestion to the submitting party; allowing the submitting party to select and comment on any of the displayed previously-submitted suggestions that similar to the new suggestion and the new suggestion is linked to any previously-submitted suggestions that are selected by the submitting party, whereby the selected previously-submitted suggestions will be cross-referenced with the new suggestion is novel thus the invention is patentable.

6. Furthermore, the prior art (Laurin et al.) teaches the employee can review the other ideas that have been submitted so that the employee can better formulate/construct his/her own suggestion. Laurin et al., does not teach or suggest allowing the submitting party selects any of the displayed pervious-submitted suggestions that relevant to the new suggestion and the new suggestion is linked to any selected previous-suggestions.

7. Another prior art (Boulton et al.) teaches upon the user submits user feedback, the reviewer can select a specific feedback record to display message content and respond to the feedback. Boulton et al., also does not teach or suggest the submitting party selects any of the displayed pervious-submitted suggestions that

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relevant to the new suggestion and the new suggestion is linked to any selected previous-suggestions.

8. Moreover, the examiner has found persuasive applicant's remarks filed on December 1, 2004.

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thu Ha Nguyen, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3989. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, SPE Hosain T. Alam, can be reached at (571) 272-3978.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306.

Thu Ha Nguyen

March 3, 2005


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER